

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01889 182008Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /023 W
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P R 181525Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7824
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1889

USIA FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR AF HEDGES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, LT
SUBJECT: GOL REQUEST FOR VOA COOPERATION

REF: STATE 276347,

1. SUMMARY. MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING E.M. LEROTHOLI SAID HE WAS "GRATIFIED" AT PROMPT AND ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO GOL REQUEST FOR COOPERATION WITH VOA. END SUMMARY.

2. MININFO E.M. LEROTHOLI RECEIVED ME, ACCOMPANIED BY PAO (ALSO A/DCM) BIELAK ON NOVEMBER 18 AS SCHEDULED. HE LISTENED CAREFULLY AS WE CONVEYED DEPARTMENT RESPONSE AS SET FORTH IN PARA 3 REFTEL.

3. LEROTHOLI COMMENTED THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD POLICY AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH REQUIRED STUDY; HE PARTICULARLY WELCOMED POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY TECHNICIAN TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS.

4. WE STRESSED THE BENEFITS OF VOA BROADCASTS AS SOURCE OF
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OBJECTIVE INFORMATION FOR RADIO LESOTHO BROADCASTS, A POINT REINFORCED BY BIELAK FROM HIS LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. LEROTHOLI AGAIN LISTENED BUT DID NOT OPENLY REACT TO THIS IDEA. HIS PRINCIPAL INTEREST, AND POINT WITH WHICH HE CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION, WAS PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF TECHNICIAN TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH VOA.

5. FYI: IN INFORMAL MEETING NOVEMBER 18 WITH U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER HOBDEN, WHO IS RETURNING TO LONDON FOR CONSULTATION AND SEVERAL MONTHS LEAVE, I REVIEWED MAIN POINTS OF LEROTHOLI'S INITIATIVE AND UNDERLYING RATIONALE FOR COOPERATION WITH VOA. HOBDEN CONFIRMED THAT U.K. IS INSTALLING TWO 100 KW SHORTWAVE TRANSMITTERS, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE ENTIRELY FOR U.K. USE IN BROADCASTING TO EAST AFRICA IN SWAHILI AND IN ENGLISH. HOBDEN'S REACTION TO GOL INITIATIVE WAS THAT HE FORESAW NO DIFFICULTY; INDEED HE THOUGHT OUR EFFORTS WOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY IN THAT OUR OBJECTIVE WOULD BE SOUTH AFRICAN AUDIENCE AND OUR PURPOSE TO PRESENT OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON APARTHEID AND OTHER ISSUES WHICH SAG MEDIA DISTORT. HE INVITED US TO MAKE CONTACT WITH BBC ENGINEER RESIDENT IN MASERU WHO COULD PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT U.K. AND LESOTHO PLANS AND OPERATIONS IN FIELD OF RADIO BROADCASTING.

6. COMMENT: APPRECIATE POSITIVE RESPONSE DESPITE UNRESOLVED POLICY AND TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. RE NON-TECHNICAL QUERIES IN PARA 2(B,C, AND D) REFTEL, OUR COMMENT WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: FIRST WE SEE NO REASON TO ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS WITH U.K. (AS NOTED IN PARA 5); SECOND, WE BELIEVE MUTUALITY OF US/GOL INTERESTS REMOVES QUESTION OF QUID PRO QUO; THIRD, THE KIND OF COOPERATION PROPOSED BY GOL WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE SUBSTITUTE FOR A VOA BROADCAST FACILITY IN BOTSWANA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 18-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771142/aaaabjty.tel
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